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10/743,787	12/24/2003	Toshihiro Maeda	009683-490	9816
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EXAMINER				
WON, MICHAEL YOUNG				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2455				
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12/22/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ADIPFDD@bipc.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,787

Applicant(s)

MAEDA, TOSHIHIRO

Examiner

MICHAEL Y. WON

Art Unit

2455

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination and Amendment filed October 30, 2009.
2. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled and new claims 17-34 have been added.
3. Claims 17-34 have been examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 17-19, 21-25, 27-31 and 34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sabbagh et al. (US 6,814,510).

INDEPENDENT:

As per **claim 17**, teaches a printing control device, comprising:

a printer-specific information storage unit storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer (see col.2, line 66-col.3, line 4: "stored data"), the printer

specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of the printer (see col.5 line 65-67);

a search unit for locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network (see col.2, lines 47-51: "utilizes a polling method of updating data"; and col.4, lines 31-35);

a comparing unit comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer-specific information storage unit, and determining if the located printer is the particular printer (see col.4, lines 20-30: "calls to the correct... printer"); and

an update unit obtaining new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit, and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer is the particular printer (see col.4, lines 35-38: "the port monitor updates stored printer configuration and status data").

As per **claim 23**, teaches a method for controlling a printing device, comprising:
storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer (see col.2, line 66- col.3, line 4: "stored data"), the printer- specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of a printer in a printer-specific information storage unit (see col.5 line 65-67);

locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network via a search unit (see col.2, lines 47-51: "utilizes a polling method of updating data"; and col.4, lines 31-35);

comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer specific-information storage unit via a comparing unit and determining if the located printer is the particular printer (see col.4, lines 20-30: "calls to the correct... printer"); and

obtaining, via an update unit, new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer has identical printer-specific information to the particular printer (see col.4, lines 35-38: "the port monitor updates stored printer configuration and status data").

As per **claim 29**, teaches a computer readable medium storing computer program instructions which when executed by a computer programmed with the instructions, causes the computer to perform the following steps:

storing printer-specific information which identifies a printer (see col.2, line 66- col.3, line 4: "stored data"), the printer specific information including at least one of a name, a specific ID, a former IP address, and a network port number of a printer, in a printer-specific information storage unit (see col.5 line 65-67);

locating a printer connected to a network and obtaining printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network via a search unit (see col.2, lines 47-51: "utilizes a polling method of updating data"; and col.4, lines 31-35);

comparing the printer-specific information for the located printer obtained by the search unit with the printer-specific information of a particular printer stored in the printer-specific information storage unit via a comparing unit and determining if the located printer is the particular printer (see col.4, lines 20-30: "calls to the correct... printer"); and

obtaining, via an update unit, new printer-specific information about the located printer searched for by the search unit and updating corresponding information stored in the printer-specific information storage unit to the new printer-specific information when the comparing unit determines that the located printer has identical printer-specific information to the particular printer (see col.4, lines 35-38: "the port monitor updates stored printer configuration and status data").

DEPENDENT:

As per **claims 18, 24, and 30**, which respectively depend on claims 17, 23, and 29, Sabbagh teaches further comprising: a setting update unit updating a printer port setting based on the information updated in the update unit (see col.4, lines 62-65).

As per **claims 19, 25, and 31**, which respectively depend on claims 17, 23, and 29, Sabbagh teaches further comprising: a judging unit judging whether the particular

printer is powered off or if an IP address of the particular printer has been changed when communications with the printer fail (see col.2, lines 61-65).

As per **claims 21 and 27**, which respectively depend on claims 17 and 23, Sabbagh teaches further comprising: a notifying unit, notifying another device on the network of the new printer- specific information about the located printer updated by said update unit (see col.5, lines 55-col.6, line 4).

As per **claims 22, 28, and 34**, which respectively depend on claims 21, 27, and 30, Sabbagh teaches wherein said notifying unit includes a reading unit reading a former access history record and a new access history record from the located printer searched for by said search unit; a determining unit that determines if the device has un-updated printer-specific information based on differences between the former access history record and the new access history record read by said reading unit, and said notifying unit notifies the device of the new printer-specific information (see col.5, lines 55-col.6, line 4).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 20, 26, 32, and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest neither singly nor in combination the claimed limitation of "wherein, said search unit locates the printer connected to the network and obtains printer-specific information from the printer connected to the network and the comparing unit compares the printer-specific information for the located printer with the printer-specific information of the particular printer when it is determined that there is no DHCP server on the network" as recited in dependent claim 20, and similarly recited in claims 26 and 32.

Claim 33 depends on claim 32.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. After further consideration and searching, Sabbagh et al. (US 6,814,510) has been cited to explicitly teach the limitations of claims 17-19, 21-25, 27-31 and 34.

Conclusion

8. For the reasons above claims 17-19, 21-25, 27-31 and 34 have been rejected and claim 20, 26, 32, and 33 have been objected. Claims 17-34 are pending with this action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Won/

Primary Examiner

AU 2455

December 15, 2009